

CLAIMS:

1. An expansion joint cover operable to accommodate movement of a first surface with respect to a second surface, the cover comprising:

- 5 a first bracket presenting a first mating member and operable to be attached to one of the first surface, the second surface, and a cover plate;
- a second bracket presenting a second mating member and operable to be attached to another one of the first surface,
- 10 the second surface, and the cover plate; and
- a central bracket operable to be installed between the first and second brackets, the central bracket including -
- a third mating member operable to mate with the first member, slide with respect to the first member, and
- 15 rotate with respect to the first member, and
- a fourth mating member operable to mate with the second member, slide with respect to the second member, and rotate with respect to the second member.

20 2. The cover as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first member presents a cylindrical socket with a longitudinal slit.

3. The cover as set forth in claim 2, wherein the third member presents a cylindrical plug operable to fit within the socket.

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4. The cover as set forth in claim 1, wherein the fourth member presents a cylindrical socket with a longitudinal slit.

5. The cover as set forth in claim 4, wherein the second member presents a cylindrical plug operable to fit within the socket.

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6. The cover as set forth in claim 1, wherein the second member presents a cylindrical socket with a longitudinal slit.

7. The cover as set forth in claim 6, wherein the fourth member presents a cylindrical plug operable to fit within the socket.

8. The cover as set forth in claim 1, wherein the third member is secured to the fourth member at an approximately ninety degree angle.

9. The cover as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first member presents a first cylindrical socket, the third member presents a first cylindrical plug operable to fit within the first socket, the fourth member presents a second cylindrical socket, and the second member presents a second cylindrical plug operable to fit within the second socket.

10. The cover as set forth in claim 9, wherein the third member is secured to the fourth member at an approximately ninety degree angle.

11. The cover as set forth in claim 9, wherein each plug includes at least one bearing.

12. The cover as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first member presents a first cylindrical socket, the third member presents a first cylindrical plug operable to fit within the first socket, the second member presents a second cylindrical socket, and the fourth member presents a second cylindrical plug operable to fit within the second socket.

13. The cover as set forth in claim 12, wherein the third member is secured to the fourth member at an approximately ninety degree angle.

14. The cover as set forth in claim 12, wherein each plug includes at least one bearing.

15. A roof joint cover operable to accommodate expansion, contraction, shear, and rotational movement of a first surface with respect to a second surface, the cover comprising:

a first bracket operable to be attached to a cover plate which is to be attached to the first surface, the first bracket presenting a first cylindrical socket with a longitudinal slit substantially along its entire length;

a second bracket operable to be attached to the second surface and presenting a first cylindrical plug; and

a central bracket operable to be installed between the first and second brackets, the central bracket including -

a second cylindrical plug operable to fit within the first socket, slide with respect to the first bracket, and rotate with respect to the first bracket, and

a second cylindrical socket with a longitudinal slit substantially along its entire length, secured at an approximately ninety degree angle to the second plug, operable to fit around the first plug, operable to slide with respect to the second bracket, and operable to rotate with respect to the second bracket.

16. The cover as set forth in claim 15, wherein each plug includes at least one bearing along its entire length.

17. The cover as set forth in claim 15, wherein each plug is approximately one inch in diameter and each socket includes arcuate sidewalls approximately one quarter inch in thickness.

18. A roof joint cover operable to accommodate expansion, contraction, shear, and rotational movement of a first surface with respect to a second surface, the cover comprising:

a first bracket operable to be attached to a cover plate which is to be attached to the first surface, the first bracket presenting a first cylindrical socket with a longitudinal slit substantially along its entire length;

a second bracket operable to be attached to the second surface and presenting a second cylindrical socket with a longitudinal slit substantially along its entire length; and

a central bracket operable to be installed between the first and second brackets, the central bracket including -

a first cylindrical plug operable to fit within the first socket, slide with respect to the first bracket, and rotate with respect to the first bracket, and

a second cylindrical plug secured at an approximately ninety degree angle to the first plug and operable to fit within the second socket, slide with respect to the second bracket, and rotate with respect to the second bracket.

19. The cover as set forth in claim 18, wherein each plug includes at least one bearing along its entire length.

20. The cover as set forth in claim 18, wherein each plug is approximately one inch in diameter and each socket includes arcuate sidewalls approximately one quarter inch in thickness.

21. A roof joint cover operable to accommodate expansion, contraction, shear, and rotational movement of a first surface with respect to a second surface, the cover comprising:

a first bracket operable to be attached to a cover plate which is to be attached to the first surface, the first bracket presenting a first cylindrical plug;

a second bracket operable to be attached to the second surface and presenting a second cylindrical plug; and

a central bracket operable to be installed between the first and second brackets, the central bracket including -

a first cylindrical socket with a longitudinal slit substantially along its entire length and operable to fit around the first plug, slide with respect to the first bracket, and rotate with respect to the first bracket, and

a second cylindrical socket with a longitudinal slit substantially along its entire length, the second socket being secured at an approximately ninety degree angle to the first socket and operable to fit around the second plug, slide with respect to the second bracket, and rotate with respect to the second bracket.

22. The cover as set forth in claim 21, wherein each plug includes at least one bearing along its entire length.

23. The cover as set forth in claim 21, wherein each plug is approximately one inch in diameter and each socket includes arcuate sidewalls approximately one quarter inch in thickness.